



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913
PH (517) 373.3447 | FAX (517) 373.5849
www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/birkholz/

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Contact: Amanda Price
517-373-3447

Senate to introduce recycling package

Lansing –The Senate will be introducing legislation next week to help develop a comprehensive statewide recycling program to increase Michigan’s recycling rate, Sen. Patty Birkholz (R-Saugatuck Twp.) announced today. Michigan currently rates near the bottom of all states with just a 20 percent recycling rate.

The 13-bill, bi-partisan package is a result of recommendations from the Michigan Beverage Container and Recycling Task Force earlier this fall to stimulate statewide recycling.

A Recycling Advisory Council would be created to help develop the comprehensive recycling plan, review local recycling programs, encourage new investment by firms that specialize in using recycled goods and make recommendations on new landfill bans

Birkholz is sponsoring a bill that would create the position of Statewide Recycling Coordinator under Michigan law. This person would work with the proposed Recycling Advisory Council to help develop the statewide recycling plan, among other duties.

“As an environmental leader and a popular tourist state, Michigan needs to be a leader in recycling,” Birkholz said. “Keeping our roads, parks and waters free of litter will improve environmental conditions and make Michigan more inviting for travelers. This legislation provides the necessary tools to boost our recycling level.”

The legislation would:

(More)

- Create a Recycling Advisory Council;
- Allow for an assessment of a new \$3 surcharge on commercial and residential waste going into Type II landfills;
- Create a new Recycling and Waste Diversion Fund for counties to run both new and existing recycling and waste reduction programs;
- Create a new litter incentive program that allows individuals to qualify for a cash award if they provide information leading to a conviction under the anti-litter statute;
- Create a state anti-litter hotline to allow an individual to make a report on litter violations;
- Create a Statewide Recycling Coordinator position;
- Create requirements for a comprehensive statewide litter study and require the state to develop and implement a new anti-litter media campaign;
- Make changes to the Adopt-a-Trail, Adopt-a-Park, Adopt-a-Shoreline and Adopt-a-River programs to allow volunteer groups to report on the volume and type of waste they collect; and
- Establish state recycling goals and require the Advisory Council to establish waste diversion goals.

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